

Appropriations Committee

February 28, 2023

Public Hearing on **H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Good morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Matthew Rowe and I am a registered voter from Waterbury Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 6659, the Governor's Budget. I am here to request that you increase funding for community nonprofits during the biennium by 9% the first year, and 7% in the second year, and to consider future increases to inflation. Inflation has impacted us all.

I came here today in hope that these new lawmakers will see the writing on the wall. We need to protect our most vulnerable citizens in Waterbury and around the state. I see many homeless people and I try to talk with them to show them where the shelter is and where the soup kitchens and services are.

I benefit from membership at Mental Health Connecticut's Independence Center. The workers are angels upon my shoulder. They provide meals and encouragement during these trying times. I also advocate for programs that help those with psychiatric disorders. I suffer from Schizoaffective Disorder.

Please increase funding for non-profit programs such as Mental Health Connecticut which do the bulk of caring in our community.

I think of Dorothy Day who said "the greatest challenge of the day is how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution that has to start with each one of us".

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today.